

I have been a licensed amateur for 39 years. I am an engineer, an avid builder, and currently work in the consumer electronics field. I can remember when circuits were composed of resistors an inch long, and terminal strip wiring. In those days, it was easy for a typical amateur to service his own equipment.

Today, circuits are made of surface mount components the size of a pin head, closely packed on multilayer circuit boards. Many times, the printed traces connecting components also serve as inductors, capacitors, or resistors. Many times traces are embedded between layers, making repair impossible. I work everyday with such components, large magnifiers, and throw-away boards that cannot be repaired by anybody.

I am sure that Mr. Leggett means well in his proposal, but the fact is that most amateurs, indeed many engineers, would be incapable of field repairs of today's equipment.

To require manufacturers to make all equipment field repairable would deny the latest technology to the amateur radio community, make equipment much larger, limit its functionality, and add great cost.

In short, it would mean a great step backwards for our hobby.

Thank you Mr. Leggett for trying, but this proposal is not a good one for our hobby.